Connecting the district courts with prisons through video conferencing

3863. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several district courts across the country have been connected to district prisons through video conferencing, for questioning of prisoners;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of implementation of the programme under which the said video links are being set up;

(c) whether the new system will do away with the practice of prisoners being transported to courts' premises for routine questioning and other matters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) No programme with Central financial assistance, for providing video links for connecting the district courts to the district prisons in the States, is under implementation for questioning of prisoners.

Establishment of women courts

†3864. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women courts constituted to deal with the cases of atrocities on women as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to constitute women courts in some more States also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) As per the Criminal Procedure Code, Central Government/State Governments can set up Special courts in consultation with the concerned High Courts to try any

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

case or class of cases. As a consequence thereof, no such data is maintained by this Department. However, a set of additional courts, known as Fast Track courts have been set up for speeding up disposal of long pending cases including cases of atrocities against women on priority.

Benches of High Courts

†3865. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain benches of some of the High Courts in the country are not functioning.

(b) if so, the number of such benches, High Court-wise, as on date;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have received memoranda/ requests in the past for setting up benches of some of the High Courts in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the High Court benches for which requests to restart have been received by Government; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Requests for setting up benches of some of the High Courts are received from time to time. In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expedience and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

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